

October Meetings

Dates & Times:

Matinee, 2:30, Wednesday, October 13

Evenings, 8:00 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday, October 13 and 14

Place:

May Treat Morrison Auditorium

Speaker:

Dr. Theodore Niehaus

Subject:

"Pacific States Wildflowers"

For the past seven years, seven days a week, Dr. Ted Niehaus has traveled over 100,000 miles preparing a new Peterson Guide entitled, "Pacific States Wildflowers", containing over 1,400 drawings of species found in California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Nevada. Dr. Niehaus' talk is illustrated with slides taken during his travels, and describes where and when to find and enjoy wildflowers anywhere in the Pacific States. He will also detail those species that can be grown in home gardens and give a list of bay area outlets for wildflower seeds.

Dr. Niehaus was raised in the Sierra Nevada and learned the botanical names of plants from his father, a U.S. forester, at the age of six. An avid photographer and winter survival expert, he holds a doctorate in botany from the University of California, Berkeley, and taught for several years at the University of San Francisco. He authored "Sierra Wildflowers" and is currently working on a new Peterson Guide, "Southwest Wildflowers".

By special arrangement with the publisher, Dr. Niehaus will have advance autographed copies of his book, "Pacific States Wildflowers", on sale after the membership meetings. As usual, your membership card admits you to the Academy through the Cowell Hall entrance. You may be asked to present your card at the auditorium door at the matinee.

Special Exhibits

"Yosemite" is a new and outstanding photo exhibit of our famed national park presented by the Los Medanos Camera Club. In Lower Cowell Hall Gallery.

Adaptive Illusions in Nature explores survival mechanisms in the use of such things as mimicry, warning coloration, false eyes and flower imitation. Dramatic color photographs, and six-legged specimens illustrate the informative text. In Lovell White Hall Gallery.

October is a busy month in the Wattis Hall of Man with the appearance of the following living arts presentations:

October 3: Local artist, Wendy Gray, appears on Sunday, October 3, from 2 to 5 p.m. to demonstrate victorian porcelain doll making. She appears with her own collection of original dolls, each one hand-made and no two alike.

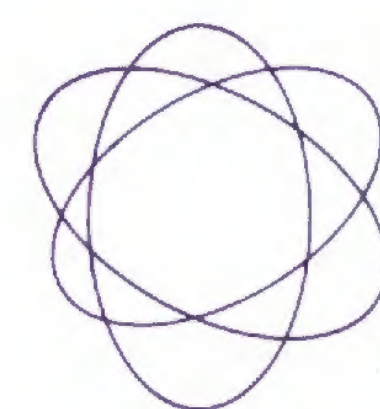
October 10: A potpourri of traditional American music from bluegrass to jazz to folk will be presented on Sunday, October 10 from 2 to 5 p.m.

October 17: In conjunction with the Dance Masks of Mexico collection now on display, traditional Mexican music and dancing will be presented on October 17 from 2 to 5 p.m.

October 24 and 31: In the spirit of Halloween, two days of mask making demonstrations will take place on Sunday, October 24 and 31 from 2 to 5 p.m.



★ Morrison Planetarium



Laserium

On June 24, 1947, a news reporter, flying in his private plane near Mt. Rainier in Washington, spotted nine circular objects flying in formation. He described their motion like a "saucer skipping on water". The term "flying saucer" has been with us ever since.

The current sky show at the Morrison Planetarium, "UFO: FACT OR FANTASY?", shares many tales of UFO sightings and visually describes the things that belong in the sky . . . meteors, satellites, bolides, etc. If you spot something that doesn't fit into one of these categories, we'll tell you what to look for, how to measure the object, and where to report your sighting. It is an unusual and fascinating program presented daily at 2:00 p.m. through November 21. Extra weekend presentations at 12:30 and 3:30 and evening shows on Wednesday and Thursday at 8:00.

The fantastic combination of music and pure 3-D color images is Laserium. See it this weekend in the Theatre of the Stars. Performances on Fridays at 7:30, 9:00 and 10:30; Saturdays at 4:45, 7:30, 9:00 and 10:30; Sundays at 4:45, 7:30 and 9:00. Admission is \$2.50 for all 4:45 shows and \$2.75 for all others. Tickets are available through all Bay Area Seating Service outlets. Remaining tickets go on sale at the planetarium box-office one-half hour before show time. Dial T-E-L-E-T-I-X for further information. Members are reminded that this is **not** a planetarium show **nor** are your membership tickets or passes usable for this attraction.

Inside the Academy

Long time Academy friend, Allyn Goodwin Smith, died at his home in Berkeley after a brief illness on August 18. He was 83. He was a man of unusual ability, wide knowledge and extraordinary energy. A graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, Mr. Smith's interest in natural history began as a hobby collecting and identifying sea shells. He later became an acknowledged expert in the field of malacology and was appointed part-time Research Associate in Geology in 1952.

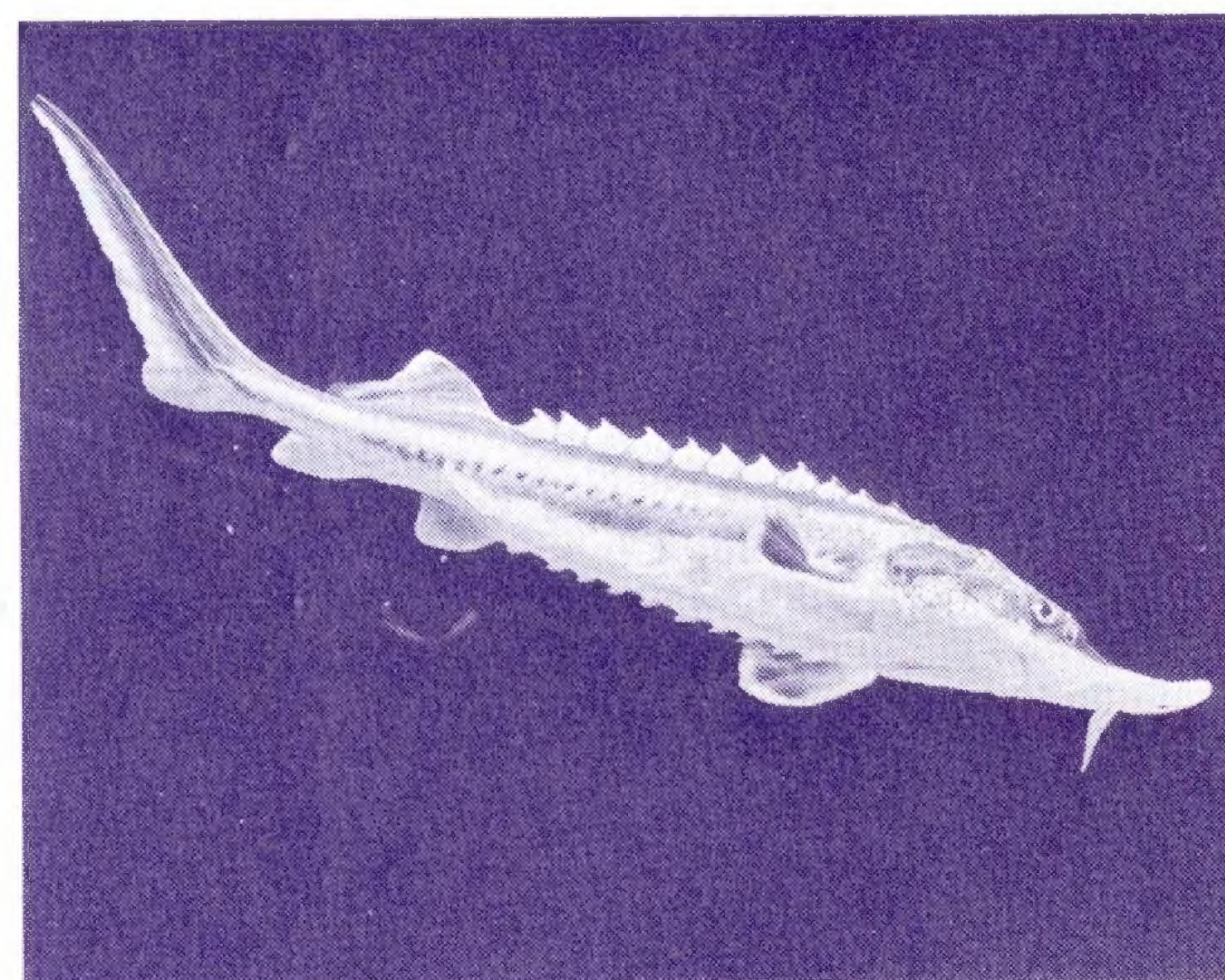
He served as Assistant to the Director, Dr. Robert C. Miller, from 1956 to 1960. He was appointed Associate Curator of the Department of Invertebrate Zoology in 1960 and became Chairman of the department in 1963. Mr. Smith was the author of numerous papers on mollusks, and through the years of association with the Academy was a generous donor not only of malacological material, but of a collection of valuable scientific photographs of natural history subjects.

The National Science Foundation recently announced continued support of two important research grants to the Academy. One, in the amount of \$35,400, is for "Curatorial Support of the Entomology Collection" under the direction of Dr. Paul H. Arnaud, Jr., Department of Entomology. The other, for \$25,100, continues support for "Curating the Fish Collection", under Dr. William N. Eschmeyer, Department of Ichthyology.

The Academy's research collections are used by a world wide community of scientists and scholars. The National Science Foundation's welcome support is in recognition of their importance and use as research assets.

Through a scientific exchange with Dr. Andrew Antonov of Moscow University, the Steinhart Aquarium has become the proud recipient of several specimens of Beluga Sturgeon, famed for the caviar which the females produce. Residents of the Volga River in Russia, the Belugas grow as large as 2,800 lbs. and 28 feet in length. Those at the Steinhart Aquarium are somewhat smaller, being mere babies. At maturity a female can produce as many as 5 million eggs!

Dr. Antonov's price for these rare caviar producers? A single slice from our frozen coelacanth. The sturgeon are on display in tank No. 31 along the freshwater corridor.



Meet the Staff



Marine Botanist, Dr. Sylvia A. Earle was recently named Curator of Phycology at the California Academy of Sciences. The specialized study of marine plant life was a natural selection when coupled with Dr. Earle's love of, and vast experience in underwater diving. She headed the first team of women scientist-aquanauts on the Tektite II Project, a two week demonstration of the feasibility of living and working under the sea. She has subsequently spent more than 1000 hours in such underwater habitat research projects.

In 1970, Dr. Earle was presented the Department of Interior's highest honor, the Conservation Service Award, and was named Los Angeles Times Woman of the Year. In 1973, she was one of 14 professional women selected to visit the People's Republic of China. Dr. Earle is a distinguished lecturer and has participated in numerous scientific expeditions around the world, including the California Academy of Sciences search for the ancient coelacanth in the Comoro Islands in 1975. She was recently elected to the Board of Directors of the World Wildlife Fund-U.S. Appeal, and will address the 1976 Congress later this year in San Francisco.

Currently, Dr. Earle is Chief Scientist on the research vessel EAGLE, a specially outfitted ship to serve as base for the production of natural history documentary films about the sea. "The EAGLE will be totally self-sufficient, a floating lab with accommodations to allow extended periods of study of research in one particular part of the ocean", she says.

Working with underwater photographer, Al Giddings, Dr. Earle conducted the National Geographic Sea Films research project in Truk Lagoon (cover story, National Geographic; May, 1976). A favorite topic is their upcoming research and filming project to begin in early 1977. Together with Dr. Roger Payne, they will film and record the songs of the humpback whales off the coast of Maui. It is only recently that the sounds made by the whales were recognized as a recurring pattern . . . quite literally songs, of the electronic music variety. "The purpose of our expedition is to make prolonged underwater observations on the behavior of these endangered marine mammals and to correlate their songs with their actions, something that has never been done before", says Dr. Earle.

Dr. Sylvia Earle resides in Oakland with her three children, Elizabeth, 15; Richie, 14; and Gale, 8. Each one is already a diver, as enthusiastic about being under the sea as their mother.

Advance Notice of Monthly Meetings

November 10 and 11 — "Life and Death in Truk Lagoon" by Sylvia Earle
 December 15 and 16: — "On the Trail of Genghis Khan" by Dr. Robert T. Orr
 January 12 and 13 — "Winter on the High Peaks of the Great Basin" by Galen Rowell



Education and Travel Notes

Classes starting this month for adults include: MINERALOGY, October 5; CARE OF FRESH AND SALTWATER AQUARIUM FISHES, October 6; INDIAN USES OF PLANTS, October 8; TELESCOPE WORKSHOP, October 12; and MOLLUSKS FOR THE SHELL COLLECTOR, October 18. Full details are in your "Activities Calendar", recently mailed, or by inquiry to the Education Office, 221-4214, Ext. 211.

Our TIDEPOOLING expeditions scheduled for October 23 and 24 are filled. This popular activity is limited by our small staff and the fact that we do not want too many feet on the delicate habitat of the intertidal zone. We hope that by repeating this trip from time to time we will be able to accommodate more members.

Lagoons and Islands of the West Coast of Baja California: January 19-26

This week's excursion to the coast and islands of Baja California has become an annual event of the Academy's travel program. Aboard the refitted **Qualifier 105** the traveler observes the abundant marine life of the coast highlighted by the California gray whale, migratory shorebirds and waterfowl. There will be opportunities to study plant life on Todos Santos, San Benitos, Cedros and San Martin Islands. The instructor-leaders are experts in specific fields of natural history. Limited to 30. Cost: Approximately \$575 from San Diego. For further information contact Nature Expeditions International, P.O. Box 1173, Los Altos, California 94022. Telephone: (415) 941-2910.

India and Nepal:

February 26-March 27

Visit India and Nepal next spring with the Academy! Dr. Laurence Binford, Chairman of the Department of Birds and Mammals, will lead this trip featuring the abundant wildlife of the national parks and bird refuges along with the magnificent culture of these ancient countries. Arrangements are being planned by Siemer and Hand, Ltd., One Embarcadero Center, San Francisco, California 94111. Telephone: (415) 788-7186. Cost, including land and air travel, lodging, about half the meals, and a \$200 tax deductible contribution to the Academy, is \$2890 per person.

Guatemala:

March 5-24

Our trip will be a 19-day comprehensive tour, mostly by private car, led by Dr. and Mrs. Robert T. Orr. Featured will be the markets, the antiquities, and the interesting natural history of this beautiful land, which is again ready to receive visitors. Cost approximately \$1990. Limited to 20. Contact Gulliver's Travel, 3597 Sacramento Street, San Francisco, California 94118. Telephone: (415) 346-4400 for further details.

The Scottish Highlands and Islands:

May 21-June 4

Scotland is immensely rich in history, scenery and wildlife. The 14-day trip will be very rewarding to the birdwatcher, the photographer and the traveler who enjoys history and unspoiled country. The tour will include the Shetland Islands, the Island of Skye, the Inner Hebrides, plus a five-day study of the highlands of the Scottish mainland. The leader will be John Lister Kaye of Highland Wildlife Enterprises, a naturalist who provided excellent leadership for this trip in 1975. Limited to 15. Land cost: approximately \$1060. For further information contact Gulliver's Travel, 3597 Sacramento Street, San Francisco, California 94118. Telephone: (415) 346-4400.

New Members of the Academy

Regular Members

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Dr. Fred M. Anderson
Judith Tyler Anna
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Ms. Robin Goodfellow
Mr. Rich Goodman &
Ms. Lee Angress
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California Academy of Sciences Newsletter October 1976

